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"Our last field work was done on the Vaccas Keys, Crawl Keys, and Grassy Key. We secured a good collection of the plants inhabiting these islands, including some additions to our flora, and a view of the remarkably dense growth of the palm, *Thrinax floridana*, which is well worth a trip there to see."

"Notes on North American Pondweeds", by Mr. Norman Taylor.

"A short historical review of previous treatments of the genus *Potamogeton* shows that Morong (1893) credited 37 species to North America, while Pflanzenreich (1907) lists 42 species and scores of varieties. The forthcoming part of the North American Flora will contain descriptions of only 36 species. A decidedly conservative tendency in the conception of specific limitations accounts for the difference in the number of species, and this is based on a more or less fixed adherence to the principle that in *Potamogeton* fruit characters are the only ones of any real stability.

"The usual characters that have been used by monographers and their relative value for taxonomic purposes, was discussed. As an example of the variability of the group, a series of specimens showing every gradation between the lanceolate leaves of *P. Richardsonii* and the orbicular ones of *P. bupleuroides* was shown, and the contention was advanced that in all probability the three species *P. Richardsonii*, *P. perfoliatus*, and *P. bupleuroides* were in reality one aggregate species with trifling differences."

Discussion followed by Dr. Barnhart, Dr. Rydberg, and the speaker.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 P. M.

PERCY WILSON,
Secretary

REVIEWS

Ward's Trees*

The little book, which follows the three volumes on Buds and Twigs, Leaves, and Inflorescences and Flowers, is of course designed primarily for use in England; yet, it will prove helpful in

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*Ward, H. Marshall. Trees: A Handbook of Forest Botany for the Woodlands and the Laboratory. Vol. IV. Fruits. Pp. 154. *f.* 147. 1908. Cambridge, University Press (Putnam's, New York).

this country, especially to the teacher of general botany. The key is simple, and despite its broken character, owing to the interpolation of many illustrations, can be used easily by any one really interested in trees; it is based upon the fruits as the sub-title indicates. The list of trees included, does not, of course, agree with similar lists of American trees; this is noticeably true of the oaks (5 species) and the maples (3 species). The greatest value to Americans is in the general chapters on fruits (pp. 3–55) in which the distinctions between seed and fruit, and between the various kinds of fruits, is told in a very readable way. The illustrations will prove very helpful for general demonstration purposes; one very great advantage over most illustrations is the care with which the seed attachment is shown.

JEAN BROADHURST

OF INTEREST TO TEACHERS

BIOLOGY IN SUMMER VACATIONS

In the preliminary report on the high school course in biology prepared by the New Jersey Science Teachers' Association,* suggestions are given for observations during the summer vacation. They are divided into the studies possible at the seaside, on the mountains, in gardens, etc. The questions suggested by Dr. Harper in the July (1908) TORREYA may be too difficult for most of the high school pupils, but some of them, at least, can be used. Will not some teacher, who is in touch with his botany or biology classes again in the fall, send us a report of what he has been able to do in this line? We hear much claimed for biology because it is such a vital subject, in close touch with the child's life. *Can* we in one year give the high school pupil enough to interest him in any such problems and can we enable him to carry them out independently during the summer? Or is it mere talk? Will not some of our teachers try it this summer? Reports upon work of this kind would be more convincing than pages on "educational biology" as to what we can rightfully

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* Committee: Mr. G. H. Trafton, Passaic, Chairman; Prof. J. Nelson, Rutgers College, and Miss S. Streeter, Jersey City.